

## Message Text

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71

ACTION EA-14

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R 280825Z JUL 73

FM AMCONSUL HONG KONG

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7713

INFO USLO PEKING

AMEMBASSY TAIPEI

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

C O N F I D E N T I A L HONG KONG 7569

E.O. 11652 GDS

TAGS: PINT, CH

SUBJECT: DR. YANG CHEN-NING'S REMARKS ON HIS MEETING WITH  
MAO

REF: PEKING 565

SUMMARY. PRC OWNED HONG KONG PRESS GIVING EXTENSIVE  
ATTENTION TO CHAIRMAN MAO'S MEETING WITH PHYSICIST YANG  
CHEN-NING AND YANG'S VIEWS ON SCIENCE IN PRC. END SUMMARY.

1. EGLISH LANGUAGE SOUTH CHINA MORNING POST  
ARTICLE JULY 28 REPORTED YANG CHEN-NING DURING INTERVIEW IN  
TOKYO WITH NIPPON UNIVERSITY PROFESSOR SETARO NAKAMURA ON  
YANG'S MEETING WITH CHAIRMAN MAO HAD DISCLOSED: (A) YANG  
WOULD SERIOUSLY CONSIDER CARRYING OUT ONE YEAR'S RESEARCH  
IN CHINA AND (B) YANG DID NOT RULE OUT THE POSSIBILITY OF  
"SETTLING DOWN IN CHINA TO SERVE THE PEOPLE." SCMP STORY  
WHICH LED OFF WITH SENTENCE THAT MAO HAD SAID " THAT IF HE COULD  
RESIGN FROM CHAIRMANSHIP HE WOULD WANT TO BECOME A  
SCIENTIST--A WISH THAT, ALAS, COULD NOT BE FULFILLED," WAS  
BASED ON JULY 26 YOMIURI SHIM BUN ARTICLE WHICH CARRIED YANG  
INTERVIEW IN FULL.

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2. PRC OWNED HONG KONG TA KUNG PAO JULY 27 CARRIED PORTIONS OF YOMIURI'S ACCOUNT OF YANG'S INTERVIEW WHICH DESCRIBE MAO'S INTEREST IN NUCLEAR PHYSICS AND HIS WIDE-RANGING COMMENTS BUT DID NOT INCLUDE MENTION OF YANG'S VIEWS ABOUT DOING RESEARCH IN CHINA NOR ABOUT POSSIBILITY OF "SETTLING DOWN IN CHINA TO SERVE THE PEOPLE." TANYUNG PAO ON JULY 28 CONTINUED WITH FURTHER EXCERPTS RE YANG'S IMPRESSIONS ABOUT THE DEVELOPMENT OF SCIENCE IN CHINA.

3. OTHER MAJOR PRC OWNED HONG KONG PAPER, WEN WEI PAO, ON JULY 28 CARRIED FRONT PAGE ARTICLE BY OWN REPORTER WHO HAD INTERVIEWED YANG IN JAPAN JULY 27 ABOUT MAO MEETING. WEN WEI PAO FOCUSED ON YANG'S COMMENTS ABOUT MAO'S WIDE KNOWLEDGE, ALERTNESS AND VERY GREAT INTEREST IN SCIENCE. ARTICLE REPORTED THAT YANG DECLARED PORTION OF YOMIURI INTERVIEW WHICH SAID MAO WOULD RESIGN FROM CHAIRMANSHIP AND BECOME SCIENTIST IF THAT ONLY POSSIBLE WAS INCORRECT. YANG EXPLAINED THAT IN RECOUNTING MAO'S COMMENTS, YANG HAD SAID ONLY THAT MAO WAS VERY PLEASED THAT YANG HAD MADE SOME CONTRIBUTION IN THE FIELD OF SCIENCE AND THAT MAO HIMSELF WANTED TO MAKE SOME CONTRIBUTION BUT THIS WAS NOT POSSIBLE. THIS POINT, SAID YANG, HAD BEEN MISINTERPRETED BY THE YOMIURI ARTICLE. WEN WEI PAO ARTICLE ALSO DID NOT CARRY ANY REFERENCE TO YANG'S PLANS OR VIEWS ABOUT WORKING IN CHINA.

4. COMMENT. EXTENSIVE PRC HONG KONG PRESS COVERAGE OF MAO-YANG DISCUSSIONS REFLECT STRONG CHINESE INTEREST IN SCIENCE GENERALLY AND IN YANG PERSONALLY. FACT THAT WEN WEI PAO TOOK PAINS TO CORRECT PORTION OF YOMIURI INTERVIEW REFERRING TO MAO'S RESIGNING NO DOUBT REFLECTS PRC SENSITIVITY TO SUCH SUBJECT EVEN BEING MENTIONED. THAT WEN WEI PAO DID NOT AT SAME TIME CORRECT YOMIURI VERSION OF YANG'S PERSONAL PLANS SUGGESTS LATTER WAS ACCURATELY REPORTED. HOWEVER, FORMAT OF WEN WEI PAO ARTICLE INDICATES FURTHER INSTALLMENTS OF ITS OWN INTERVIEW WITH YANG MAY BE FORTHCOMING. WE WILL REPORT FURTHER DEVELOPMENTS IF THEY APPEAR AND POUCH TRANSLATIONS IN FULL.  
DEAN

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